



# PROGRESS and the MODERN HOUSEHOLD



## AMATEUR PLAYERS AIDED

Mrs. August Belmont's Educational Dramatic League Will Encourage Young People's Theatricals in Schools and Settlements.

"A first American drama, 'of the time for the dramatic skill of its presentation. If the plays are good enough the league will undertake to produce them."

— Mrs. Belmont flushed. "Of course," she laughed, "that is a very trite phrase, but, after all, it expresses our dreams and our hopes for the league. When the school children and their parents all over the city are producing little plays, when they are themselves writing little dramas of life as they know it, when the people who see the plays are their own families and friends and neighbors—then the real drama of democracy will be born."

"Personally, I am very full of civic pride. I believe we have tremendous dramatic talent lying dormant in our New York people. Those wonderful races on the East Side just vibrate emotion and poetry, but they aren't taught to express it. The object of this league is to foster the art of the amateur drama."

Mrs. August Belmont has not lost the art of rousing her hearers since the day when she was Eleanor Robson, at whose aid a theatrical of people wept or laughed or dreamed dreams. To-day, as president of the Educational Dramatic League, she has inspired busy, blasé New York with a belief in the ultimate Humility of Peter, the newsboy, and the Rosy-Bud wit shut up in Tessie bending over her power sewing machine in a factory.

### DRAMATIC INSTINCT.

"I believe the dramatic instinct in all of us," continues Mrs. Belmont, enthusiastically. "I believe it should be encouraged. Not that I want to make actors of everybody—not at all. This league is not to train recruits for the professional stage; it is simply to help the people do enjoy playing at the drama. People do enjoy amateur plays, as a rule. Ask any young girl when she has the most fun, and she'll tell you 'At rehearsal.'

The idea of this league we have formed is to guide and help these amateur plays into channels which will be more generally worth while. If a settlement club is going to give a play it might as well give the right one, and the players might as well learn to recite their lines in the best way. There are dozens of points on which the inexperienced player folk could be given assistance that would be welcome. We want the plays that are given to yield the greatest return in pleasure and education."

With these general aims the Educational Dramatic League was formed in January. The officers of the executive committee are: Mrs. Belmont, president; Miss Kate Oglebay, vice-president; Mrs. James Livingston, secretary; James S. Cushman, treasurer; Dr. Frederick C. Howe, Mrs. Ray Schwartz, Miss Gertrude Robinson Smith, and Mrs. Emma Sheridan Fry, dramatic director.

On the advisory committee are Miss Anne Morgan, Miss Elsie de Wolfe, Mrs. Ben Ali Haggard, Mrs. Francis McNeil Bacon, Jr., Percy Mackaye, Professor Brander Matthews, Henry de Forest Baldwin, Mrs. Henry Blisse, Mrs. Charles Coffin Lincoln Crownell, Miss Rachel Crothers, Dr. Thomas C. Hall, Mrs. Charles Knoblauch, V. Everett Macy, Mrs. William Fellowes Pinchot, Hubert Osborne, Amos R. E. Pinchot, Mrs. George D. Pratt, Dr. Edward Stitt, Mark Werthman, Miss Sara White, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Happold, James Metcalf and Mrs. Charles H. Isaacs.

### WELL KNOWN ADVOCATES.

Forty clubs in settlements, churches, schools, existing organizations such as the Vacation Fund, and working girls' associations have already joined the league. They are at present working upon two plays, "The House of the Heart" and "Pygmalion and Galatea." Competitions between the clubs will begin about May 1. By the middle of June all but the final four contestants will have been weeded out. Then comes the grand competition, for which Mrs. Belmont has offered the senior prize—\$25—for the best performance of "Pygmalion and Galatea." In the junior series Miss Morgan has offered the same prize for "The House of the Heart." In addition to the money prize, which will be used by the winning club for costumes, scenery or other equipment, there will be a bronze tablet engraved with the whole story of the contest. The tablet must be won three years in succession before it becomes real property. The Board of Education has offered the league the use of forty public school auditoriums for the productions of the plays. During the summer the league expects to play in the public parks with picked casts chosen from all the clubs.

It is impossible to think of a detail for the smooth running of so big a proposition which has been neglected by the organizers. There will be a dramatic library at headquarters, No. 45 East 53d street, where managers will find books of plays, books of dramatic criticism, anything from "Useful Hints to Stage Managers" to the "History of Costume." Mrs. Emma Sheridan Fry, the dramatic director, will be at the office one day a week to advise teachers and directors.

"Not only play production, but play writing needs a helping hand," says Mrs. Belmont, with a mischievous smile. "I'm not saying that we haven't many brilliant American playwrights to-day. Only with so many new theatres going up on every corner we need new authors to keep them filled. Seriously, though, a great many people have good ideas for plays, but lack technical knowledge of play writing. Genius is sometimes shy, and people are not over encouraging to the unknown young writer. Because we know that great ideas are valuable as technique we small offer two prizes—one for the idea in the play and

### Daily Bill of Fare.

#### MONDAY.

**BREAKFAST.**—Cracked wheat, ham, melted orange marmalade, toast, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**—Cottage loaf, Vienna bread, rhubarb conserve, tea.

**DINNER.**—Tomato soup with cheese, Gouffé broiled with caper sauce, fried parsnips, spinach salad with egg garnish, cocoonut blanc manz with custard sauce, coffee.

Chop the remains of Sunday's roast veal and dress it with some savory gravy. Line a buttered casserole with well-seasoned mashed potatoes. Fill the dish with the meat. Over the meat spread a cover of mashed potatoe and bake it until it is firm. A little butter brushed over the top will give it a good crust. Turn the loaf out on a platter and serve with a hot

cup of tea.

The Women's Political Union will hold its usual Sunday afternoon tea from 4 to 5 p. m. to-day. Miss Rose Schneiderman will be the speaker.

The Woman Suffrage party (25th Assembly) will give an entertainment for the benefit of "The Woman Voter and News Letter" on Friday, April 11, at 2:30



The Educational Players in Emma Sheridan Fry's Production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

## NEWS OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

At the last meeting of the American Criterion Society, which was held on April 4, the entertainment consisted of a cabaret tea, at which many professionals assisted. The entertainment was held in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Plaza, and the guests and members sat at small tables, at which refreshments were served. Every feature of an up-to-date cabaret show was in evidence.

At the close of the programme a dance was given. The officers of the American Criterion are Mrs. Doré Lyon, president; Mrs. Bella de Rivera, first vice-president; Mrs. John F. Trow, second vice-president; Mrs. William G. Demarest, recording secretary; Mrs. Judi E. Wells, corresponding secretary; Miss Jeannette Fergus Baird, treasurer, and Mrs. Gerard Bancker, recorder.

The National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild is planning for a practical course in flower, fruit and vegetable gardening to be conducted by Dr. Darling, of the department of agriculture of Columbia University, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, from 4 to 6 o'clock, from April 1 to May 31, inclusive, at Isham Park. The general order of work will be as follows: Preparation of soils, composts and fertilizers for greenhouse and garden work; planting and sowing of seeds and bulbs in greenhouse and cold frame, and the care of the plants, including irrigation, fertilizing, spraying, etc.; transplanting of flowers and vegetables in gardens, pots and window boxes; arranging and designing of plots and the selection of the plant varieties for the plots, sowing or planting of seeds, bulbs or tubers in the garden, with reference to time, depth and spacing; transplanting of fruit and decorative trees, shrubs and vines, together with practical work in grafting and pruning, and general cultivation and care of flowers, fruits and vegetables, including methods and times of fertilizing, spraying and harvesting. All those interested in beautifying their town and helping poor children to enjoy congenial and happy work during the summer vacations are invited to communicate with the guild at the national office, No. 79 Fifth Avenue.

The Interborough Association of Women Teachers of the City of New York will hold its seventh annual banquet on Saturday, April 26, at 6:30 p. m., at the Waldorf-Astoria. The reception will be given at 6 o'clock.

The Leibig Circle of the Silver Cross Day Nursery, Mrs. William W. Cleindening, honorary president, are rehearsing a play to be given at the Plaza on May 2, entitled "The Girl and the Page." James Gorman, by kind permission of Messrs. Coban and Harris, is staging the entire production. The play is to be followed by a dance. The cast includes the Misses Nettie Mitchell, Olive Tinker, Vera Albertsen, Francis Vaughn, Florence Cole, Edna Haaren, Hazel Guild and others.

The officers of the circle are: President, Miss Genevieve Schreiner; first vice-president, Miss Edna Haaren; second vice-president, Miss Nettie Mitchell; treasurer, Miss Bertha Pennell; recording secretary, Miss Hazel Guild; corresponding secretary, Miss Olive Tinker.

A regular meeting of the Legislative League, Mrs. Thomas Slack, president, was held April 3 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Dr. Mary Halton was the speaker.

Miss M. A. Pennell and Mrs. St. George Elliott, Jr., will give a bridge and euchre at the Hotel Clarendon on Monday, April 14, at 2 o'clock for the benefit of the Neighborhood Social and Industrial Club, Mrs. Frank E. Wise, president.

Dr. Merle St. Croix Wright delivered an address before the New York League of Unitarian Women on Friday, April 4, at the Unitarian Church, Flatbush, on "The Religion of Robert Louis Stevenson." He was preceded by Miss G. E. Paine, who gave a talk on the foundation, needs, resources, equipment and development of the Music School Settlement and the splendid work it is doing among the people of that section. Miss Paine is the head resident at the settlement.

The annual springtime luncheon of the National Society of New England Women will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Wednesday, April 9. Mrs. John Francis Yawger is in charge of the arrangements. The date of the luncheon falls on Appomattox Day, and patriotic addresses will be given.

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Mrs. August Belmont.

Bernard Wall and Mrs. John Frederick Thomas, chairman.

The regular monthly meeting of "The Californians in New York," Mrs. David Mason, president, will be held Monday, April 7, at the Hotel Astor, which will hereafter be the headquarters of the club. Business meeting at 2:30 o'clock; social hour at 3:30, when Samuel H. Wandell will give a talk on "Old New York."

The regular monthly meeting of the New York Browning Society will be held next Wednesday, April 9, at the Waldorf-Astoria, with Mrs. Raphael A. Weed as chairman.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the National California Club was held last Monday, March 31, with the following result: To serve two years each, for president, Mrs. Thomas J. Vivian; for second vice-president, Mrs. Robert S. Howard; for recording secretary, Mrs. George E. Gordon; for treasurer, Mrs. Richard Burr; for directors, Mrs. Milton V. Snyder, Mrs. H. C. Laughton, Mrs. Russell Bassett and Mrs. Louis A. Schmidt.

The Texas Club of New York, Clara Driscoll Sevier, president, will give an annual audience in the grand ballroom of the Plaza Hotel, which was kindly done by the management, on the afternoon of April 11, at 2:30 o'clock. Tickets are \$1.25 each. Tables are \$5. Same can be obtained from the chairman, No. 32 Manhattan avenue; telephone, Morning-side 2239. The following is the committee: Mrs. A. F. Hancock; Mrs. W. Borden Carter; Mrs. William M. Hazelton; Mrs. George Kirby Smith; Mrs. Frank D. Glover; Mrs. John R. Potts; Mrs. J. C. Parks; Mrs. Willie Durham House; Mrs.

The annual sewing bee will take place next Tuesday, April 8, at 2:30 p. m., at the residence of Mrs. A. A. Fisher, No. 490 5th street, Brooklyn. Mrs. Fisher cordially invites all members to be present with their handwork. Tea will be served at 4:30 o'clock.

The Woman's Republican Club, Mrs. James G. Wentz, president, will hold the next meeting, Tuesday morning, April 8, at 10:30 o'clock, at Delmonico's. The

subject for discussion will be "A Clean City." The speakers will include Mrs. Ernest Lederle and the Rev. Warren M. Giles. The club guests will be Mrs. Lederle, Mrs. Giles and Mrs. Ralph Trautman, president of the Health Protective Association.

During the week beginning April 6, thirty-five events are scheduled by the Women's Political Union. Outdoor meetings are being held two or three times a week in every Senatorial district in New York City. At a meeting held last night at 96th street and Broadway twenty-five parade pledges were obtained. Mrs. de Forest, who was speaking, called for a vote on woman suffrage. Six voted ay and none against. Among those speaking are Miss Eleanor Erving, Miss Lucy Eastman, daughter of Joseph Eastman, the banker; Mrs. M. C. Attition, Mrs. Charters, Miss Elena Barvel, Miss Beatrice Brown, Miss Alice F. Elmstet, Miss Anna Consable, Miss Eleanor Brennan, daughter of Dr. John Winters Brannan, and many others.

The Rainy Day Club of America, Mrs. A. M. Palmer, president, held a meeting at the Hotel Astor on April 2. The committee was as follows: Mrs. M. L. Thirill, chairman of hygiene; Mrs. Katherine Nease-Rouge, chairman of music; Mrs. B. G. Schwartz, chairman of child labor; O. A. Edwards, Jr., chairman of art; Mrs. Charles K. Mills, chairman of reception; Mrs. Frederick Nicklas, chairman of guests; Mrs. Everitt Stone, chairman of introduction; Miss S. Estabrook, chairman of literature; Mrs. E. C. Burgess, chairman of refreshments; and Mrs. Horace Greeley Hart, chairman of programme.

DISORGANIZED STATE.

But many regions of the world's life and work are yet unorganized: survivals of an era of hand work and isolated homes—what the old geology used to call vestiges of creation. We can house a town now on a city block, but we have not learned how to institutionalize cooking for that town. Infinite duplication of little activities, of smells and unsanitary conditions, waste and inefficiency, at rise blithely from the basic principle of our family life—what is home without a kitchen?

WASTE IN "MERE LIVING."

The chief regions of waste and inefficiency are not to-day in our industries, or even our agriculture, for both are already mechanized and scientized, or are rapidly becoming so. We waste most in the regions of "mere living"—the conditions and activities that determine the housing, rearing of children, food supply and food preparation, health and sanitation.

Every tenement house is honeycombed with inefficiency in its tiers of individual kitchens, laundries, pantries and ice boxes, all of which should be centralized and under co-operative control. What industry would tolerate such dissipation of tools and labor? Our obsolete system of taxation makes the land owner rich and condemns the children to tuberculosis indoors and the truck and automobile in the streets, their only playground. Our markets and freight terminals for food supplies are marbles of inefficiency and consequently of expense, compared with the facilities of Munich and Hamburg. Whenever we take care of the mothers of the industrial classes and take care of the milk supply the statistics, whether of Birmingham or New York, immediately show the result in a decreased death rate and the increased health and stature of children. But such care is as yet only sporadic. Compared with Munich or Berlin, New York has still to learn what clean streets mean. Every wind in New York wafts work to the housekeeper, and dust lends ready wings to disease.

THE CIVIC MIND NEEDED.

We cannot in a city be any longer merely home-minded; we must be civic-minded, for the city is the larger home, whose conditions absolutely determine the efficiency and happiness of its members.

To be civic-minded means large vision and larger training and more specialized knowledge than we have hitherto been giving to the problems of mere living. These problems are essentially the problems that in the past have been especially known as woman's sphere. But how small in comparison with the new possibilities of woman's work now appear the ideals of "Kinder, Küche und Kirche," still glorified in some quarters. The home housekeeper, however efficient, who goes on niggling in the ruts, is spending a tragic effort in coping with difficulties and conditions be-



The Educational Players in Emma Sheridan Fry's Production of *The Mystery of Time*.

## TRAINING FOR WOMEN

Dr. Sykes, of Columbia, Has Hopeful Views on What the New Education for Women Is Doing for the Larger Home.

BY FREDERICK H. SYKES, PH. D.

Director School of Practical Arts, Teachers College, New York City, and President of the new Connecticut College of Women which has just been founded.

"WE HAVE LIGHTENED THE CURSE OF ADAM WHEN WE HAVE LIGHTENED THE BURDEN OF EVE!"—KIPLING.

It was a mole, they say, who objected to the Subway as being not the kind his mother used to make. The Subway is typical among transportation methods of

any individual control. She can bear the burden of the world, but she cannot ease or lessen that burden.

Economic pressure has drawn six or seven millions of women of this country from work without pay in the home to work in shop and factory, for which they are paid. They are in many cases both breadwinners and homemakers; both

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